

These artifacts, and the paintings and photographs that are part of the displays, tell the story of how our people survived, adapted, and thrived throughout our history. They—and other objects stored away in the Museum—are lovingly preserved by their local conservators, who exhibit a profound dedication to keeping the memories of our people alive.

The NMI Museum of History and Culture is an independent program of our Governor's Office. Sadly, the facility fell on hard times in the mid-2000s, when massive budget cuts forced the lay-off of most staff. At this low point, the Museum had only one employee, whose availability determined when the museum would open and close. As a result, many a visitor was turned away who could have experienced the history of the Chamorro people.

In 2015, the Marianas were hit by Typhoon Soudelor, the most devastating typhoon in decades. That terrible storm could well have meant the end for our Museum. The typhoon left many artifacts damaged, the roof leaking, mold along the walls, floors flooded, and much of the plumbing a wreck. And the museum was forced to close its doors to visitors—indeed definitely.

Into this scene of destruction a new energy arrived in the person of Mr. Danny Aquino. Appointed Executive Director last year, Mr. Aquino was tasked with the grueling repair of the museum.

And more help was on the way. An outpouring of financial and material support from IT&E, Saipan Stevedore, Saipan Shipping, CMS Trucking, Soudelor Corporation, Tropical Gardens, Tan Holdings, Tan Siu Lin Foundation, McDonald's of Saipan, Tasi Tours and other local businesses, a \$55,000 appropriation from the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation, and \$50,000 from the Marianas Visitors Authority gave Aquino and his team the funds to start repairs.

Help from the staff of the Mayor of Saipan also moved the work along at a faster pace. The Mayor's team assisted museum staff with grounds maintenance, landscaping, and other outdoor work. Somehow, restoration took less than six months to complete; and the Museum reopened last November to its first visitors in a very long time.

I visited the museum in February to see this progress. I had been there shortly after Typhoon Soudelor; and I can report the difference between then and now is night and day. Mr. Aquino's can-do attitude, and the tireless work of his staff—James Cabrera, James Macaranas, Allan Lifoifo, and Wenny Haruo—drove the repair efforts and the result is a museum that the Marianas can truly be proud of.

Today, visitors to our islands can orient themselves to the three-and-a-half millennia of Marianas history at our Museum. Residents can take pride in who they are and where they come from by strolling through this beautiful facility. And students—many of whom are required to take a course on the history of our islands—can enlarge their vision of the future by learning about our past at the Northern Mariana Islands Museum of History and Culture.

Please join me in congratulating the Northern Mariana Islands Museum of History and Culture on 20 years of serving our islands and our people.

TRIBUTE TO DEE AND MIKE HUGHES

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 28, 2018

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Dee and Mike Hughes of Clarinda, Iowa on the very special occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary. They celebrated their anniversary on May 12, 2018.

Dee and Mike's lifelong commitment to each other and their family truly embodies Iowa values. As they reflect on their 50th anniversary, I hope it is filled with happy memories. May their commitment grow even stronger, as they continue to love, cherish, and honor one another for many years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I commend this great couple on their 50th year together and I wish them many more. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion.

CONGRATULATING FAYETTEVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT A-SHIFT RESCUE 1 ON BEING PRESENTED THE PUBLIC SAFETY VALOR AWARD

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 28, 2018

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Captain Michael Bartch, Lieutenant Kenneth Tatum, Firefighter James Strickland, Firefighter Thomas Farrell, and Firefighter Chiara Furlanetto-Duehning for receiving the Greater Fayetteville Chamber of Commerce's Public Safety Valor Award as part of the Fayetteville Fire Department A-Shift Rescue 1.

We are all too familiar with the heroic work our firefighters do in our communities. Whether it is keeping us safe or saving the lives of others, the men and women who put on these uniforms are unsung heroes in towns and cities all across our nation. They work long hours, day and night, to ensure that we can feel safe as we go about our lives.

The Valor Award is presented to those who execute extreme acts of heroism in order to save the lives of others in our community. The Fayetteville Fire Department A-Shift 1 exemplified this when they saved an individual who was stuck in a grain silo with temperatures well over one hundred degrees. They were able to extract the individual and get him to the hospital where he made a full recovery. It is lifesaving acts such as this which humble me and make me appreciate the selflessness of our firefighters that put their lives in danger to help others.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in celebrating these heroic men and women of the Fayetteville Fire Department A-Shift Rescue 1 on receiving the Greater Fayetteville Chamber of Commerce's Public Safety Valor Award.

HONORING ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISH ON THEIR 150TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 28, 2018

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor St. Thomas the Apostle Parish on their 150th Anniversary. They will be celebrating this historic milestone in June of 2019.

Since the early 1800's, the St. Thomas area had been visited by Jesuit missionary priests. In 1838 Father Ferdinand Helias, S.J. celebrated the first Mass in the area called "Indian Bottom" and went on to establish a strong faith community for many parishioners by founding approximately 20 mission churches in central Missouri. To this day, 7 of those mission churches are still in operation, serving the community members of Westphalia, Rich Fountain, Taos, Loose Creek, and Jefferson City.

In 1869, Archbishop Peter Kenrick, Archbishop of St. Louis, officially erected St. Thomas as the Apostle Parish. When St. Thomas was established as a town, it was decided to move the church there and construction began in 1883. On October 22, 1884 the new building was dedicated and Father Aloysius Mayer served as the first pastor. Impressively, this is the church still being used today. In 1987, the pipe organ built by the J.G. Pfeffer Company of St. Louis was installed and in 2016 was historically restored. This year the Organ Historical Society recognized the organ as an instrument of national heritage.

Generations of families have benefited from the various spiritual opportunities offered at St. Thomas the Apostle. Weekly Sunday school and sacraments of Penance and Holy Communion are a real treasure to those living in this rural community. The Totus Tuus Summer camp offered for children 1st-12th grade gives kids a fun and faith based experience during the summer months. Parish groups cater to a variety of parishioners at St. Thomas the Apostle Parish from the Catholic Youth Organization, to Quilters, Knights of Columbus, a Prayer Line, St. Ann's Sodality, and even a bowling alley. The annual parish picnic is a favorite social event for locals and even residents of the surrounding counties.

The church property is also home to the town's first school which was built in 1874. In 1903, a new two-story school was built where students were taught for the next 63 years by lay teachers; Precious Blood Sisters of Ruma, Illinois; Sisters of the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ; and School Sisters of Notre Dame. Starting in 1962, the school operated as a public school in the Cole R-II School District and then in 1989, it was re-established as a Catholic School. In 2006, the two-story school building was renovated and a new gym was constructed. Throughout the years this school has shaped the minds of many generations and is still providing a positive influence in students' lives today.

The City of St. Thomas has seen many businesses come and go throughout the years, but the anchor in the community has been the steadfastness of St. Thomas the Apostle Parish.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in congratulating St. Thomas the Apostle Parish on